Int nal Application No

PCT/IL 03/00728 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61L27/38 A61L A61L27/26 A61K35/32 A61K35/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61L A61K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, MEDLINE, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, BIOSIS C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ US 6 437 018 B1 (GERTZMAN ARTHUR A ET AL) 1 - 5020 August 2002 (2002-08-20) column 1, line 16 - line 21 column 9, line 11 -column 10, line 20 claims 1,226,27; example IX US 6 326 018 B1 (GERTZMAN ARTHUR A ET AL) χ 1-50 4 December 2001 (2001-12-04) column 5, line 65 -column 6, line 26; claim 1 χ EP 0 419 275 A (OSTEOTECH INC) 1 - 5027 March 1991 (1991-03-27) column 1, line 25 - line 33 column 3, line 17 - line 55 column 4, line 30 - line 49 column 5, line 17 - line 38; claims 1-3,18; example 1 | X | Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understend the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled to be a considered to be a combination being obvious to a person skilled document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 29 January 2004 10/02/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Ganschow, S

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.:  because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. X Claims Nos.:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable dalms.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest  The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claim 1 relates to 'site-responsive polymers'.

Dependent claim 26 defines said 'responsive polymeric system' as selected from a group consisting of a variety of different compounds. However, some of these compounds do not appear to represent 'site-responsive polymers' such as: glycerol (no polymer), oligosaccharides, oligopeptides, peptides, proteins, enzymes, growth factors, hormones and drugs.

This inconsistency between the compounds of claim 26 and claim 1 implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by present independent claim 1, thereby resulting in a lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT).

In fact, claim 26 contains so many possibilities (such as 'drugs') that a lack of clarity (and/or conciseness) within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful and complete search of the claims impossible.

Moreover, claims 1 and 26 are not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT, as their scope is broader than justified by the examples as the examples only refer to temperature-sensitive polymers (RTG polymers) and silane-based polymeric material.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and/or concise), namely pH-responsive, thermosensitive, ionic strength-reactive or site-responsive polymers, alginates, hyaluronic acid, collagen, gelatin, chitosan, cellulose, agarose, polyacrylic acid, PVA, PEO, TMPO, saccharides, peptides, proteins, enzymes, growth factors, hormones, oligoHEMA etc.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# 3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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